

**MINUTES OF THE
JUDICIARY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 20, 2005 – 10:30 a.m. – Room W130 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. David L. Thomas, Senate Chair
Rep. James A. Ferrin, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. Gregory S. Bell
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Sen. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. Susan Lawrence
Rep. Ross I. Romero
Rep. LaWanna Shurtliff
Rep. Scott L. Wyatt

Members Absent:

Sen. L. Alma Mansell

Staff Present:

Mr. Jerry D. Howe, Policy Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Cassandra N. Bauman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Cassandra Bauman, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Peterson, Rep. Clark, Rep. Lawrence, Rep. Romero, and Rep. Wyatt absent for the vote.

2. Audit Report

Mr. Rick Coleman, Deputy Auditor General, and Mr. Darin Underwood, Audit Supervisor, Office of Legislative Auditor General, distributed and presented "A Performance Audit of the Office of the Guardian ad Litem." They responded to questions.

Mr. Myron March, Deputy Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts, explained that the Judicial Council has created a committee to oversee the Office of the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) which eliminates potential conflicts of interest between judges and the guardians ad litem that may come before those judges in court. He responded to questions.

Ms. Kristin Brewer, Director, GAL, stated that the GAL agrees with the recommendations to the GAL and is implementing them. She indicated that administrative support is definitely needed. She responded to questions.

3. Potential Interim Study Items

Committee members discussed potential study items for prioritization as assigned by the Legislative Management Committee.

Rep. Fowlke recommended that the Committee review child support tables. Sen. Bell concurred with the recommendation.

Mr. Ronald Ockey, Office of the Attorney General, distributed "Competition & Consumer Protection Legislation" and indicated his preference for the Committee to prioritize Study Item 106.

Mr. Robert Gibson indicated his preference for the Committee to study mutual protective orders (Study Item 117). He related a personal experience that underscores the need for mutual protective orders.

Ms. Emma Chacon, Office of Recovery Services, suggested studying ability to pay and economic data when reviewing child support tables.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Ferrin moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.